WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A law retrieval system constituted by connecting a user information transmitter-receiver by which a user transmits a retrieval condition and receives a retrieval result and a law retrieval server for performing retrieval processing in sequence in accordance with the retrieval condition received from said user information transmitter-receiver, via a communication network, and by connecting data storage means, in which laws, judicial cases, and data required for retrieval are accumulated, to said law retrieval server,

wherein said data storage means includes a constitution and statute database in which data of the constitution, laws, government orders and ministerial orders, and the like is accumulated, a judicial case database in which data of judicial cases is accumulated, and at least one database out of a meta-keyword database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords such as slang words with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords, a verb and object database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to combinations of them, and an aid flow database previously constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases, and

wherein said law retrieval server includes, in correspondence with said each database, at least one retrieval processing means out of meta-keyword retrieval processing means, when a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from said meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow retrieval processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

2. A law retrieval apparatus, comprising:

data storage means including a constitution and statute database in which data of the constitution, laws, government orders and ministerial orders, and the like is accumulated, a judicial case database in which data of judicial

5 cases is accumulated, and at least one database out of a meta-keyword database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords such as slang words with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords, a verb and object database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to

10 combinations of them, and an aid flow database previously constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases, and

a law retrieval server including, in correspondence with said each database accumulated in said data storage means, at least one retrieval processing means out of meta-keyword retrieval processing means, when a

15 received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from said meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow

20 retrieval processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

25 3. A law retrieval apparatus, comprising:

a meta-keyword database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords such as slang words with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords;

an information analysis portion for determining whether or not a

30 received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword; and

a retrieval processing portion, when the determination by said information analysis portion is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an

associated retrieval keyword therewith from said meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing.

4.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein said meta-keyword database is set such that the non-retrieval keyword and a law term having meaning equal or similar thereto as the retrieval word associated with the non-retrieval keyword are one-to-one or one-to-many.

5.   A law retrieval apparatus, comprising:

a verb and object database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and by associating retrieval keywords related to combinations of them, and

a retrieval processing portion for obtaining a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing.

6.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

an information analysis portion for analyzing whether a received keyword is a verb or object, and

an input/output processing portion, when an analysis result by said information analysis portion is either a verb or object, for reading the other object or verb associated therewith from said verb and object database and outputting it,

wherein said retrieval processing portion receives the other verb or object after the output by said input/output processing portion to obtain a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of the verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing.

7.   A law retrieval apparatus, comprising:

an aid flow database previously constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases;

a history analysis portion for analyzing whether or not a retrieval history matches any one of patterns of said aid flowcharts; and

an input/output processing portion, when the matching of the retrieval pattern is determined by said history analysis portion, for outputting requests for information in sequence in accordance with the pattern of said aid flowchart.

8.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein, in said aid flow database, at least aid flow application conditional expressions are accumulated associated with said aid flowcharts.

9.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein said aid flowchart is composed of identification line numbers including identification information, query files in which queries including choices are written, result files in which answer results are written, and branch numbers in which identification line numbers of next destinations are recorded associated with choices of the query files.

10.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein, in said aid flow database, at least aid flow application conditional expressions are accumulated associated with said aid flowcharts, and

wherein said aid flowchart is composed of identification line numbers including identification information, query files in which queries including choices are written, result files in which answer results are written, and branch numbers in which identification line numbers of next destinations are recorded associated with choices of the query files.

11.   A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 9,

wherein said identification line number includes identification information as to a query file or a result file.

12. A law retrieval apparatus according to claim 10,

wherein said identification line number includes identification information as to a query file or a result file.

13. A computer program, comprising:

meta-keyword retrieval processing means for determining whether or not a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword and, when it is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from a meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing;

verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from a verb and object database to perform retrieval processing; and

aid flow retrieval processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

14. A computer program, comprising:

an information analysis portion for determining whether or not a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword; and

a retrieval processing portion, when the determination by said information analysis portion is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword therewith from a meta-keyword database constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords to perform retrieval processing.

15. A computer program, comprising:

a retrieval processing portion for obtaining a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from a verb and object database constructed by associating retrieval keywords based on combinations of verbs and objects related to each other to perform retrieval

processing.

16.　　A computer program, comprising:

an information analysis portion for analyzing whether a received keyword is a verb or object;

an input/output processing portion, when an analysis result by said information analysis portion is either a verb or object, for reading the other object or verb associated therewith from a verb and object database constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to combinations of them, and outputting it; and

a retrieval processing portion for receiving the other verb or object after the output by said input/output processing portion, and for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of the verb and object from said verb and object database to perform retrieval processing.

17.　　A computer program, comprising:

a history analysis portion for analyzing whether or not a retrieval history matches any one of patterns of aid flowcharts previously formed by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases; and

an input/output processing portion, when the matching of the retrieval pattern is determined by said history analysis portion, for outputting requests for information in sequence in accordance with the pattern of said aid flowchart.

18.　　A computer-readable record medium recording therein said program according to at least any one of claim 13 to claim 17.

19.　　A computer-readable record medium recording therein data, comprising:

a branch-type file structure composed of an identification line number including identification information, a query file in which queries including

choices are written, a result file in which a result is written, and a branch number in which identification line numbers of next destinations are written associated with the choices of the query file, constituting an aid flowchart by predicting an information gathering query pattern for each case, and

5   a file structure of an aid flow application conditional expression associated with a branch-type file of said each aid flowchart.

20.   A computer-readable record medium, comprising:

a recorded constitution and statute data in which data of the constitution, laws, government orders and ministerial orders, and the like is accumulated, a recorded judicial case data in which data of judicial cases is accumulated, and at least one recorded data out of meta-keyword data constructed by associating non-retrieval keywords such as slang words with retrieval keywords adequate for replacing the non-retrieval keywords, verb and object data constructed by associating verbs and objects related to each other and associating retrieval keywords related to combinations of them, and aid flow data previously constructed as aid flowcharts by predicting information gathering query patterns for cases; and

a recorded computer program including, in correspondence with said each database, at least one retrieval processing means out of meta-keyword retrieval processing means, when a received keyword is a non-retrieval keyword, for reading an associated retrieval keyword from a meta-keyword database to perform retrieval processing, verb and object retrieval processing means for reading a retrieval keyword associated with a combination of a received verb and object from a verb and object database to perform retrieval processing, and aid flow retrieval processing means, when a retrieval pattern by a received retrieval keyword matches a pattern of an aid flowchart, for transmitting requests for additional information in sequence in accordance with a flow of the aid flowchart.

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